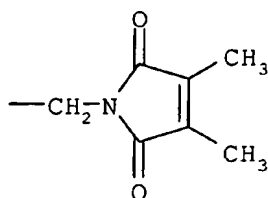


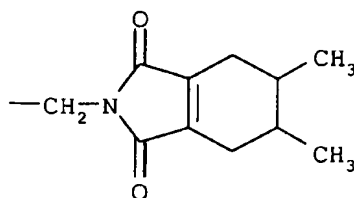
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[CLAIMS]

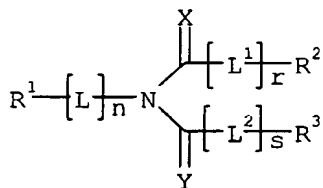
1. A polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit of which the
 5 phenyl group is substituted by a group A characterised in that
 the group A comprises an imide or thioimide group,
 with the exception that A is not



or

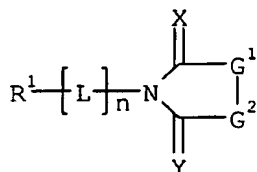


- 10 2. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the
 following formula



- wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,
 wherein L, L¹ and L² are independently a linking group,
 15 wherein n, r and s are independently 0 or 1,
 and wherein one of the groups R¹, R² or R³ represents the phenolic
 monomeric unit and the other two represent a terminal group.

3. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the
 following formula



20

- wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,

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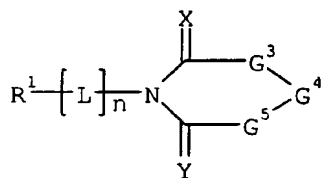
wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^4 or $R^5-[L^3]_t-C-[L^4]_u-R^6$, with the limitation that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is O and that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is NR^4 ,

wherein L, L^3 and L^4 are independently a linking group,

5 wherein n, t and u are independently 0 or 1,

and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1 , R^4 , R^5 or R^6 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

4. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the
10 following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,

wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 or

$R^8-[L^5]_v-C-[L^6]_w-R^9$ with the limitation that at least one group,

15 selected from G^3 to G^5 , is $R^8-[L^5]_v-C-[L^6]_w-R^9$ and that two

neighbouring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7 , by S and NR^7 or by O and O,

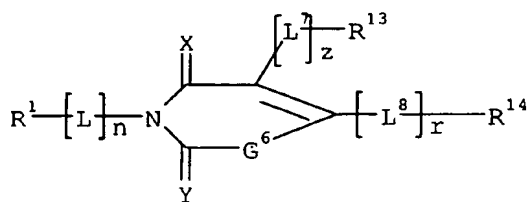
wherein L, L^5 and L^6 are independently a linking group,

wherein n, v and w are independently 0 or 1,

20 and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1 , R^7 , R^8 or R^9 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

5. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula

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wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,

wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR^{10} or

$\text{R}^{11} - [\text{L}^9]_x - \text{C} - [\text{L}^{10}]_y - \text{R}^{12}$,

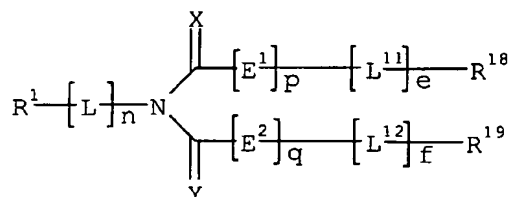
5 wherein L, L^7 , L^8 , L^9 and L^{10} are independently a linking group,

wherein n, x, y, z and r are independently 0 or 1,

and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13}

and R^{14} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

- 10 6. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,

wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{15} or

15 $\text{R}^{16} - [\text{L}^{13}]_g - \text{C} - [\text{L}^{14}]_h - \text{R}^{17}$,

wherein n, e, f, g, h, p and q are independently 0 or 1,

wherein e is 0 when E^1 is represented by O, S or NR^{15} ,

wherein f is 0 when E^2 is represented by O, S or NR^{15} ,

wherein L, L^{11} , L^{12} , L^{13} and L^{14} are independently a linking

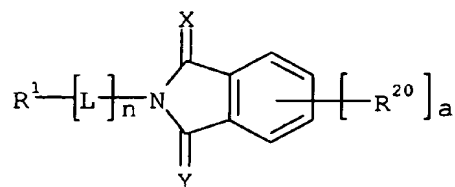
20 group,

and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1 , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18}

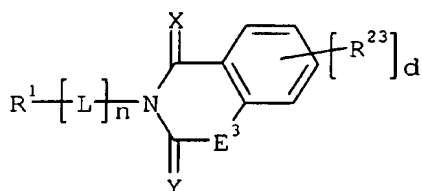
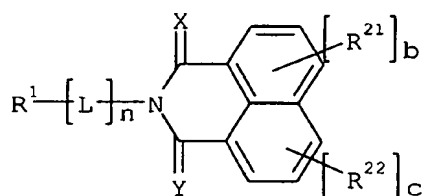
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and R^{19} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

7. A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has one of the following formula



5



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O or S,

wherein each R^1 , R^{20} to R^{23} are a terminal group, independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or

heteroaralkyl group, halogen, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}-R^{24}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-R^{27}$,

$-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{24}-R^{25}$, $-\text{NR}^{24}-\text{CO}-R^{27}$, $-\text{NR}^{24}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{25}-R^{26}$, $-\text{NR}^{24}-\text{CS}-\text{NR}^{25}-R^{26}$,

$-\text{NR}^{24}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{25}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^{24}-R^{25}$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-R^{27}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-R^{24}$, $-\text{CO}-R^{24}$,

$-\text{SO}_3-R^{24}$, $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-R^{27}$, $-\text{SO}_2-R^{24}$, $-\text{SO}-R^{27}$, $-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{24})(-\text{O}-R^{25})$,

$-\text{O}-\text{P}(=\text{O})(-\text{O}-R^{24})(-\text{O}-R^{25})$, $-\text{NR}^{24}-R^{25}$, $-\text{O}-R^{24}$, $-\text{S}-R^{24}$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$,

$-\text{N}(-\text{CO}-R^{24})(-\text{CO}-R^{25})$, $-\text{N-phthalimidyl}$, $-\text{M-N-phthalimidyl}$, or

$-\text{M}-R^{24}$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1

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- to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^{24} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
5 wherein R^{27} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3,
10 wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{28} or $R^{29}-[L^{15}]_i-C-[L^{16}]_j-R^{30}$,
wherein L, L^{15} and L^{16} are independently a linking group,
wherein n, i and j independently are 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1 , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{28} , R^{29} and R^{30} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and
15 the remaining groups represent a terminal group.
8. A polymer according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.
9. A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising
20 a support having a hydrophilic surface and an oleophilic coating, provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising an infrared light absorbing agent and a polymer according to any of the preceding claims.
10. A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9,
25 wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.
11. A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 10, wherein said dissolution inhibitor is selected from

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- an organic compound which comprises at least one aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site, and/or
- a polymer or surfactant comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units.

5 12. Use of a polymer, according to any of the claims 1 to 8,
in a coating of a positive working heat-sensitive lithographic
printing plate precursor, further comprising

- an infrared absorbing agent and
- a dissolution inhibitor,

10 for increasing the chemical resistance of the coating against
printing liquids and press chemicals.

13. A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9,
wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid
and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is
15 a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

14. Use of a polymer, according to any of the claims 1 to 8,
in a coating of a negative working heat-sensitive lithographic
printing plate precursor, further comprising

- an infrared absorbing agent,
- 20 - a latent Brönsted acid and
- an acid-crosslinkable compound,

for increasing the chemical resistance of the coating against
printing liquids and press chemicals.

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